In the Claims:

1.(currently amended) A method for treating an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate comprising: dispersing an ~~The use of an~~ allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound ~~(hereinafter the "deactivant"), dispersed~~ into an airspace in ~~at~~ which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to provide ~~achieve~~ a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 14 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.

2.(canceled)

3.(currently amended) The method according to ~~use as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is as a vapour.

4.(currently amended) The method according to ~~use as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.

5.(currently amended) The method according to ~~use as claimed in~~ claim 4, wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.

6.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein~~ the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

7.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~use as claimed in any preceding claim,~~ wherein the deactivant is selected from:

a terpene hydrocarbon;

a citrus oil;

a mint oil;

bois de rose oil;
oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
oil of bergamot; and
oil of lemon grass;
or a component thereof.

8.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~use as claimed in any preceding claim,~~ wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

9.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~use as claimed in any preceding claim,~~ wherein the deactivant comprises β-pinene.

10.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~use as claimed in any preceding claim,~~ wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

11.(new) A method for treating an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate comprising : dispersing an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound into an airspace in which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to provide a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 28 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.

12.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is as a vapour.

13.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.

14.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.

15.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

16.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant is selected from:

a terpene hydrocarbon;
a citrus oil;
a mint oil;
bois de rose oil;
oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
oil of bergamot; and
oil of lemon grass;
or a component thereof.

17.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

18.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises β-pinene.

19.(new) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.